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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

May 4, 1978

JOSHUA LEDERBERG  
JOSEPH D. GRANT PROFESSOR  
OF GENETICS

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Dr. Michael Valentine  
The Medical Foundation  
29 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Dr. Valentine:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, which was on my desk awaiting my return from a trip. I was glad to see your report and its news of the excellent work that you are doing which must certainly earn my professional appreciation.

You were asking about the columns that I had written, in fact between 1966 and 1971 which appeared on a weekly basis in The Washington Post and a number of newspapers on its syndicate line. With rare exceptions they are dated now and I have to say that I am pleased that I resisted the temptation a few years ago to collect them into a reprint volume which would have quite inappropriately enshrined them. However, I am enclosing a few I must say rather selected samples that may help to illustrate what I was driving at.

I had rather hope that others would take on a comparable task after I had done my stint but so far as I know nothing quite like that has materialized. There are many critical things (both positive and negative) that could be said about these efforts at journalism on the part of a working scientist but I would agree with your implication that this is a channel of communication that should be cultivated further.

Ray Goodell, in her book "The Visible Scientists", has a little more to say about the sociology of this interface; and Dr. June Goodfield Adjunct Professor at The Rockefeller University is also preparing what I am sure will also be a thoughtful discussion over the same general issues.

The report mentions a book "The Horizons of Health" that I would be very happy to see if you had a copy available (and if so, by all means please bill me).

Yours sincerely,

JL/gel

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